Regulatory Commission on coal

†2109. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state by when action would be taken to constitute a Regulatory Commission for the proper control on the rates and quality of supply of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): The Government has not yet decided to constitute a Regulatory Commission for coal sector.

Criteria for allotting captive coal mines

2110. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government propose to change the criteria for allotting captive coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the priority to be given to sectors in the changed criteria?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The Government is considering a proposal to introduce competitive bidding for allocation of coal blocks for captive mining.

(c) It has been decided by the Government to give priority to the power and steel sectors in allocation of coal blocks. It has further been decided that preference in allocation should be given to power projects of 500 MW and above and steel plants with more than one million tonne per annum capacity.

Captive coal mining blocks

2111. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for allotment of coal blocks;

(b) the number of coal/mining leases that have been allotted for captive mining;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the number out of these that are in operation; and

(d) the total production of coal from different captive mines allotted in last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Under the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, as amended from time time, an Indian company, both in private and public sector, engaged in power generation, iron and steel manufacturing, cement production and such other end uses as may be notified by the Central Government from time to time can do mining of coal.

(b) 79 coal blocks have been allocated for captive mining so far. The Mining leases for coal blocks, however, are granted by the concerned State Governments after obtaining prior approval of the Central Government.

(c) Production has commenced in five coal blocks for captive mining.

(d) The total production of coal from captive mines during the last three years is as under:

(Million Tonnes)

Year	Production
2003-04	7.710
2004-05	9.581
2005-06	13.633
TOTAL:	30.924

Profit earned by MTNL

†2112. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under mobile phone services, the clientele of MTNL is on the increase;

(b) if so, the clientele as it was at the end of March, 2004, March, 2005 and March, 2006 respectively;

(c) the number of subscribers under the fixed line services during the said period respectively; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.